

WORK STUDY SESSION
JOINT MEETING
HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GRAND ISLAND, CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 22, 2003

The Hall county Board of Supervisors met Saturday, February 24, 2003, at Camp Augustine with the Grand Island City Council.

Members present were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Bob Rye.

HEARTLAND EVENTS CENTER – Hugh Minor with Fonner Park was present. He stated that to date they have raised \$19,250,000.00 for the event center. The total cost of the project will be \$25,000,000.00. The building will be \$21,500,000.00, equipment \$2,637,500.00 and other expenses at \$862,500.00. Fonner Park has provided ten million dollars toward the infrastructure of the facility i.e. land parking etc. The building will consist of three floors and reviewed the floor plans.

This will be a multi-purpose center and uses will include agriculture, charitable, civic and educational. It will be similar to the Texas A&M Arena and will be able to handle sport and recreational activities. Some of the major funds that they have received will be used for a maintenance fund. This is a regional project and will serve 500,000 people. They feel that it will stimulate economic growth. The location of the center will allow for future expansion. Mr. Minor answered questions from the group.

Mayor Vavricek welcomed the County Board members and everyone introduced himself or herself.

HOMELAND SECURITY – Marlan Ferguson and Kyle Hetrick talked briefly on the homeland security issues. There is a web site for homeland security that has been set up. Emergency Management Director Howard Maxon has talked about the “shelter in place concept” for many years and this is important now.

JAIL PROJECT – Hall County Board Chairman Pamela Lancaster stated that the major county project is the jail and once that is in place then the safety center can be addressed. She stated that the criminal justice committee met and it will be 5 to 7 years before it will be started. The council questioned if this would be a bond issue and Scott Arnold replied that it has not been decided what option they will be using, the board needs to do their homework to make a good decision. Lancaster stated that the jail is the pivotal point on this entire project and it needs to be moved first. Lancaster stated that LB 656 was introduced by Senator Aguilar addressing some of the state statutes regarding a privatized jail in the State of Nebraska. The public hearing for this bill will be February 26, 2003. The board toured two correctional facilities in Kansas yesterday and they will be touring a facility in Iowa. Mr. Ferguson asked what location would be used for the jail. Mr. Arnold stated that the board has decided to include other locations in the request for proposals. Eriksen stated that they would need 50 to 75 acres for the jail facility. Arnold stated that there are concerns on the location at CAAP. He stated that when the correctional facilities were built in Kansas there was growth around the sites.

JOINT PROJECTS – CHANNEL 56 TRANSMITTER – Cindy Johnson stated that the City uses channels 6, 12 and 56 for broadcasting public service information. Channel 56 is not working. Ms. Johnson stated that in 2000 the City spent \$38,000.00 to repair the system and they are having transmitter problems again. This may be an opportunity for the City and the County to address the problems together. The City has a problem with the tower and they will need to address this. Mayor Vavricek stated that the City will get information to the public on the current problems with Channel 56 and they will address the possible action and the costs involved. The City will keep in touch with the County on the possible solution.

SPILLMAN MOBILE DATA – Chief of Police Kyle Hetrick stated that the Police Department needed an integrated system and had looked at different systems for some time. The Spillman system is as good as it gets. The City started on the Spillman System December 5, 2001 and they are making progress.

Will Bennett with ABACUS was present. He stated that nine years ago he was hired as a consultant to look at the Spillman program to get rid of it, but it is a fully integrated system. They have received two grants to fund this project. Mr. Bennett reviewed information on the status of the Spillman System.

- Wireless cell sites as of 11/16/2002 there are 9 sites
- Black fiber has been installed in the Court House, Beltzer Building and Administration Building
- Switches are also installed
- Rover System will be installed in the patrol cars
- The CAD dispatch system will be used
- Mobile data terminals are in 1 GIPD car and 12 HCS cars
- April 1, 2003 patrol units will be operating
- Will be 90% completed by July 1, 2003
- Budget Hall County \$784,130.00, GIPD and EOC \$175,000.00
- 300 network users, studies show should cost \$4,500.00 per PC counties cost is \$2,800.00 per PC

Mr. Bennett touched on the Homeland Security issue. The federal government set aside 3.5 billion dollars for homeland security and 3,000 counties will receive grants. Hall County could receive money for this because of our integrated system.

OTHER PROJECTS – Jim Eriksen stated that he would like to see a master plan for the road programs. Larry Seifert commented that because of the State deficit and the funding cuts that the City and County may see a joint committee on a master road plan would be a good idea.

Lancaster stated that the Board of Equalization committee is working on a plan.

Jim Eriksen stated that the Health Department has changed to a District Health Department so there are changes there.

2:00 p.m. County session adjourned.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk

